

closer

WEEKLY

June 6, 2016

GREAT ESCAPE

Romantic ROME

A VISIT TO ITALY'S ETERNAL CITY OFFERS HISTORIC LANDMARKS, LUXE HOTELS AND DELICIOUS FOOD



For Travel Channel's Anthony Melchiorri, all roads truly do lead to Rome. "I have a close personal connection with the area," the *Hotel Impossible* host tells *Closer*, explaining that his father hailed from the area. "The first time I went to Rome, nine years ago, it not only just felt familiar, it was like it was where I belonged." Visitors to the Eternal City can often relate with Anthony's heartfelt assessment. The "classic tourist spots are spectacular," points out Antho-

ny, highlighting "the Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica and Trevi Fountain." Of course, the food is another of Rome's greatest treasures. "I would literally go back there just for the pizza," he gushes. Anthony recommends first timers also sample dishes such as the "classic, authentic and delicious" *cacio e pepe* (cheese and pepper) pasta. But no matter what's on the menu, you can't go wrong. "In Rome," says Anthony, "everything just tastes, smells, looks and feels better!" — Aaron Rasmussen



ANTHONY'S FAVORITE PLACES

Star Attraction

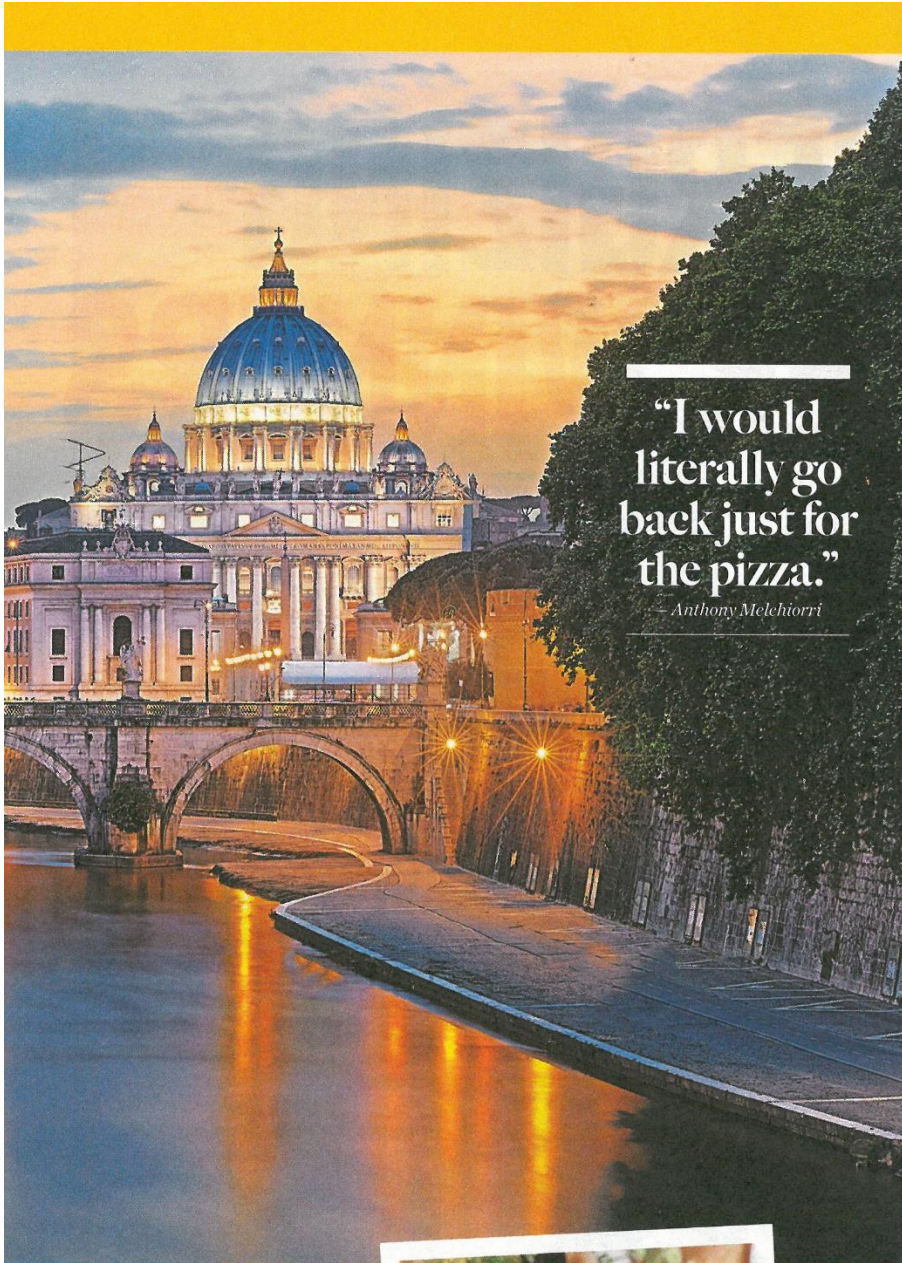
"There is a reason that some of the most well-traveled people I've met in the world tell me their favorite destination is Rome," Anthony tells *Closer*.



Fit for a King

"From the moment I arrived, we felt like royalty," Anthony, whose new season of *Hotel Impossible* is airing now, says of the St. Regis Rome.





BRING ROME HOME

“I would literally go back just for the pizza.”
—Anthony Melchiorri

THE TASTE

Feast outdoors with the Picnic in Italy gift box. \$65.80, eataly.com



THE STYLE

Tap into chic Italian design with the Anna G. bottle opener from Alessi. \$70, alessi.com



THE SIP

Bring some romance into an evening at home with the Italian Love Affair cocktail.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 oz. Belvedere Pink Grapefruit Vodka
- ¾ oz. Aperol
- Moët & Chandon champagne
- 1 pink grapefruit twist

Stir the vodka and Aperol in an ice-filled glass. Top with the champagne and garnish with a grapefruit twist. *Salute!*

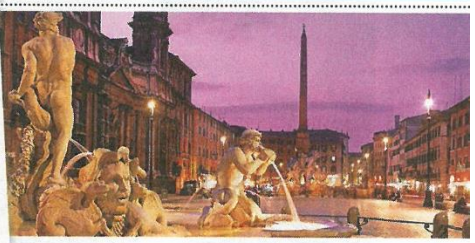
CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: TRAVEL CHANNEL; GETTY IMAGES; RAY WATKINS; HAMEL ST. PETERS



La Dolce Vita
 Anthony, 51, recommends afternoon drinks in the serene garden cafe of the Hotel de Russie.



Good Appetite
 One of Anthony's favorite reasons to visit Rome is to feast on its classic fare.



Stunning Sights
 “I felt a physical attachment to the architecture,” Anthony says of spots like Bernini’s magical fountain in Piazza Navona.